

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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## RECENT DISCOVERY OF TRIAL PRINTING OF THE T. G. MASARYK ISSUE OF 1920

By Jan Karásek — Translated by Henry Hahn

It is well known that the regular issue of 1920 bearing the portrait of Masaryk was long in preparation. Its final issuance was preceded by many trial printings and unissued stamps. Thus there appear among collectors numerous trials in two basic formats ("large" and "small"), each in several denominations. Details are published in "Monografie" Vol. 2 (1971). A summary of all known trials is found in Table 35 on pages 176–180.

We are here concerned with trials of the 2000 h, which were produced primarily by typography in various colors and on various papers (chalk, white without gum, white with gum), occasionally also trial perforated 11½. The 2000 h denomination is also known recess printed from flat plates in several colors, including red, dark brown, dark olive-green, dark blue and gray.

Both above mentioned types of trial printings (typography and recess printing) have the narrower type of the numerals "2" and "0" in the denomination oval, described in Monografie as "smaller numeral" (Fig. 1).



Fig 1.

The above fact has been updated during the past 20 years by the discovery of a few additional trials, produced by recess printing (from flat steel plates), but having wide (larger) numerals (Fig. 2). These are known to exist in 4 or 5 colors.



Fig 2.

Only quite recently was it gradually discovered that several specimens exist, all in blocks, of a contemporary trial with the wider and larger numerals, but which appeared to differ from the previously known recess-printed trial. After careful study and appropriate magnification it was determined that these specimens constitute a rare discovery, unique among the trial types. Its outlines are softer, leading to the conclusion that this recess printing was made from a copper plate engraving. This trial printing discovery is thus far only known to exist in brown color, on regular paper, without gum (Fig. 3.)

Since there are no records in the Czechoslovak Postal Museum (or anywhere else) describing this trial, it was necessary to formulate a theory — or speculation — as to how this trial originated.

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Fig 3.

Most probably, the first trial printing was made by recess printing from steel plates with the larger and wider numerals "2" and "0." Simultaneously, a reproduction of the engraving was made into a copper plate, having 100 subjects. It was probably discovered at this stage that the numerals are not suitable, since they fill too much of the oval.

Subsequently the numerals were slightly reduced (Fig. 1) which represented an esthetic improvement. At this stage more trials in a few colors were prepared. Only later was typography substituted and a much larger number of trials produced.

It is necessary to note that the original intent of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs was to issue 1200 h and 2000 h values (as well as the 50 h in small format), but due to adjustment in postal rates in 1920, decided to issue only the .125 h, 500 h and 1000 h denominations.



In conclusion, it may be stated that the newly discovered trial (thus far known only in dark brown) belongs to the interesting varieties of trial printings, which document the stamp printing technology of the 1920 era.

) Translator's Note: The author does not give the size of steel plate (number of subjects) used in the original printing of the large/wide numeral trials — i.e., before the copper plate of 100 was used. We hope to have an answer to this shortly. A block of the newly discovered trial in the translator's possession appears to have been printed on paper having a mirror image of the same trial on the reverse, in blue, but out of registry. Its outlines are poorly defined but may also represent a recess printing from flat copper plates. If so, the newly discovered trial could also exist in blue. This question has also been posed to the author.

## POSTAL STATIONERY COLUMN

.....  
By Wolfgang Fritzsche, SCP

Additions to the Czechoslovakia Section of the Higgins & Gage catalogue. Continuation of the listings in the June/July 1983 issue of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, page 12.

### Postal cards.

1983. Same as Nr. 186 but sales price now 1 mm instead of 11 mm below the line #188. 50 h; size a, Fig. 44

### Envelopes. -B-

1982. Same as Nr. 46, but address lines printed by offset press  
#47. 1 Kčs, red brown; size e, Fig. 32

### Airmail. -F- postal cards.

1983. Stamp design: red flame in circles 4.40 Kčs  
cachet lower left: VI. Congress of the Fireprotection Organization in ČSSR  
2 firefighters and ladders
- #23. 4.40 Kčs, red and gray, a, Fig. F23  
Stamp design: globe with envelopes on round stand  
cachet: bowl radio receiver, XXIII, 23rd meeting of the RVHP  
Telegraph Commission in Brno 1983
- #24. 4.40 Kčs, red and blue, a, Fig. F24  
Stamp design: coat of arms and star and Lion and star  
cachet at left: old historical buildings and modern buildings and 2 doves in black. Lettering in green: Stamp Exhibition ČSSR-ML'R Košice 1983
- #25. 4.40 Kčs, red brown, a, Fig. F25

### Airmail. -FB- envelopes.

1982. Dove and parachute design  
cachet at left: 2 parachute jumpers, XVI Parachute Jumping Championship  
Lučenec 1982, gray and red
- #25. 6 Kčs, yellow and red; size n, Fig. FB 25  
stamp design: open book and globe, Russian lettering  
cachet at left: a Bridge, modern building, Hradčany, PRAHA 1982  
V. Congress of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature  
in black, blue and red

- #26. 6 Kčs, red, blue and gold; size n, Fig. FB 26  
stamp design: world map, Czech flag, green, red and black vertical stripes  
cachet at left: Communications tower, UIT in globe, International Conference  
of Telecommunications Government Representatives, NAIROBI 1982
- #27. 6 Kčs, black, red, blue green; size n, Fig. FB 27
- Airmail. -FB- envelopes.**
1983. Stamp design: -2 carrier pigeons, heading ČESKOSKOVENSKO  
cachet: a building in Prague, 18. Olympiada Poštovních Holubů,  
F.C.I. a pigeon, Praha 1983 ČSSR  
sold only for 2 hrs. on Jan. 20 in Prague and Bratislava because of wrong  
spelling of Československo, was  
withdrawn after only 468 sold.
- #28. A. 6 Kčs, gray and red; size n, Fig. FB 28A  
stamp design: a phone receiver over TUS in a square  
cachet: 3 semi-circles of dots, a stamp-like emblem on a round background  
25 yrs Technical Centrum of the Postal Ministry in Prague
- #29. 6 Kčs, blue and red; size n, Fig. FB 29  
stamp design: diesel train engine and a satellite  
cachet: 1953-star-1983 building of the technical college for  
transport and telecommunications in Žilina
- #30. 6 Kčs, blue and red; size n, Fig. FB 30  
stamp design: 3 portraits and a globe in rings  
cachet: arrow pointing up with a globe, large 25, in small print: 25 yrs.  
of the publication: problems of peace and socialism
- #31. 6 Kčs, gold, red, black; size n, Fig. FB 31
1984. stamp design: plaque with bust of J.K.Tyl.  
cachet: 1834 1984 2 frames, KVĚTY, 5 white balls. Title page of the  
publication KVĚTY (Blumen) in old Czech 150 yrs. ago.
- #32. 6 Kčs, gray; size n, Fig. FB 32  
stamp design: 2 carrier pigeons, like NR. 28 but black line on top,  
(obliterating the old, faulty spelling) Československo on bottom  
cachet: same as Nr. 28
- #33. 6 Kčs, gray and red; size n, Fig. FB 33

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# SOME REMARKS CONCERNING THE LARGEST AND BEST SPECIALIZED COLLECTION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1918– 1939 IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

By Jan Karásek — Translated by Henry Hahn

In recent years a Czechoslovak collector named Ludvik Pytlíček of Semily succeeded in creating one of the best specialized collections of Czechoslovakia. This collection will be exhibited for the first time this year — at ITALIA '85 in Rome, between October 25 and November 3, 1985.

The Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists in Prag (Svaz čs. filatelistů v Praze) recommended that this exhibit, or its principal portion also be exhibited for the first time overseas — i.e., at AMERIPEX '86 in Chicago.

Collectors abroad will no doubt be curious to know in advance what items comprise this outstanding collection. The owner/exhibitor has succeeded in the past 10 years in obtaining virtually all notable items of specialization, rarities, and certain unique items to a degree never previously attained by a Czechoslovak collector. While some may maintain that others in Czechoslovakia could compete in specific areas, this could not be maintained in the overall sense.

It is true that abroad (USA, West Germany, Holland, and Sweden) there are significant and extensive specialized collections of outstanding quality. One of these has recently gained highest recognition at the International Exhibit in Brazil, i.e., a large gold award. That was the exhibit of Fred Hefer, member of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. This collection is also unsurpassed in its breadth of rarities.

But let us now return to the collection belonging to Ludvik Pytlíček and describe some of it from the viewpoint of a specialist.

In the Hradčany area the collection includes a series of blocks of 4 of the imperforate 20 h and 30 h denominations in various shades, all in superb mint condition. Also worth mentioning are two extremely rare covers. One with the imperforate 20 h used on a commercial letter postmarked in OPAVA, where this stamp was briefly sold in quantities of just a few sheets of 100. Further, a cover bearing the imperforate 30 h postmarked in JANSKÉ LÁZNĚ, which was the only locality where that stamp was postally sold. Both these covers are considered rare examples of usage of this issue (Figs. 1 and 2).



Fig. 2.

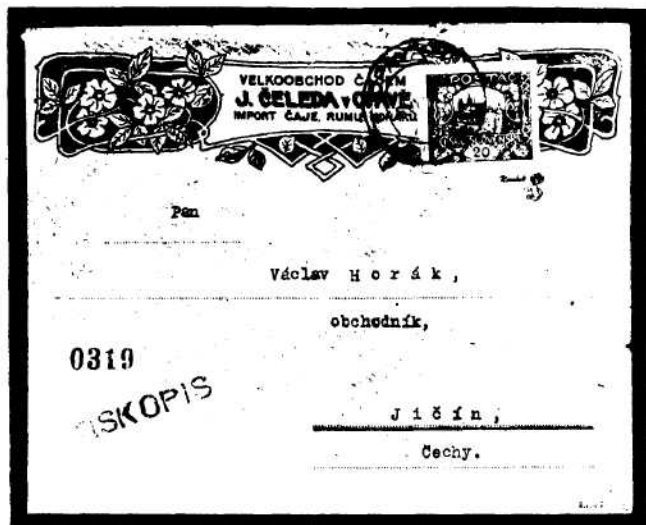


Fig. 1.

The perforation varieties in the collection are absolutely phenomenal. It includes all possible varieties including the rarest ones, including compound perforations of the 30 h and 15 h values. We particularly note the unique item of the 30 h red-violet in a block of 8 with bottom selvage, in which the two bottom stamps are compound perforated, comb  $11\frac{3}{4}$  + line  $13\frac{3}{4}$  (the  $11\frac{3}{4}$  comb throughout and the bottom now subsequently perforated line  $13\frac{3}{4}$ ). Only a few singles, used and unused of this perforation variety are known. The only block containing two is shown in Fig. 3.

The collection further includes several of the better perforation varieties in blocks of 4, notably the 15 h compound perforated line  $13\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$  and the 30 h compound perforated comb  $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$  (light and dark shade) and line perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

To the above is added a complete assembly of joined spiral types, imperforate and with various types of perforations. This group of joined types I and II (open and closed spiral) is also unique in its way since it contains among the imperforates the following: 15 h brownish red in a block of 4 (only a few known), 20 h carmine-red, when in one block of 4 we find type I in the 9th sheet position (Fig. 4), and the same value is in a block of 4 where type I is located in the 34th sheet position (Fig. 5). Only two additional blocks of 4 containing joined types of the latter are known in Czechoslovakia and are in separate collections. Further, the Pytlíček collection includes a block of 20 of the 500 h value, in which type I is located in the 32nd sheet position. A portion of this block is shown in Fig. 6. Joined types of this value in unused condition are rare — only 4 are known (that described above, a block of 6, a block of 4 and a pair) — all in collections located in Czechoslovakia. The collection also includes joined types of the 15 h brick red compound perforated line  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ , line  $13\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$  and the 25 h violet compound perforated line  $13\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$  (all in blocks of 4) and furthermore a block of 6 of the 25 h in the black-violet shade perforated identically and containing 3 joined types. All of the above are in unused condition.

Concluding with the Hradčany section we must add several covers bearing the 30 h light red-violet with various rare perforations.

We now turn to stamps with the POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919 overprint. Here this collection succeeds in maximal specialization. We find essentially all stamps in all type variations, rare items in blocks of 4; for example a block of 4 of the 3 K light carmine (II) wide format, of which the illustrated piece (Fig. 7) is the only such known. Other varieties include the 2 K dark blue (I) narrow format on money letter (Fig. 8) and further 2 K dark blue, narrow format as well as wide format, both in both types of



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.





Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

overprint. The most significant blocks of 4 include the 10 h red Mercury, the 1 f Turul, and the 20 f MAGYAR POSTA of which only two blocks of 4 and one block of 9 are known (Figs. 9, 10, 11). A notable addition is a strip of 3 of the 5 h green triangle, which includes all 3 overprint types (Fig. 12). Superb are the following 3 items: the 10 K violet, granite paper, narrow format. The overprint is of the first type and thus unique (Fig. 13) In addition, there is a further 10 K granite paper variety, wide format, with overprint type II (Fig. 14). The third unique example is a complete sheet of 100 of the 12 h green with overprint from the repaired plate showing one subtype Ia and three subtypes IIa. A portion of this sheet is shown in Fig. 15. In conclusion to this section we note the full set of three of the Air Mails on a money letter (Fig. 16).



Fig. 7.

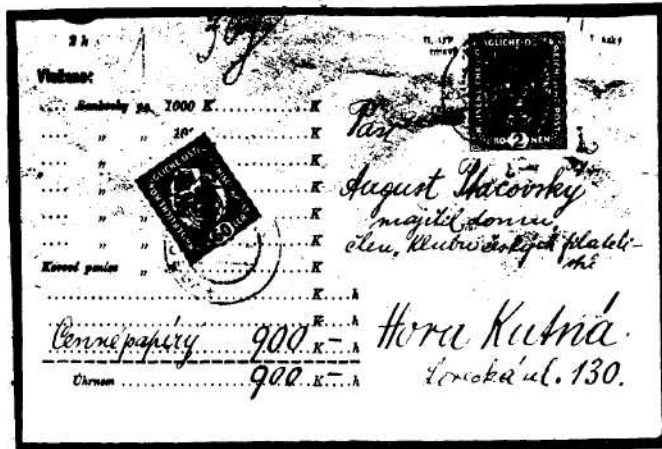


Fig. 8.

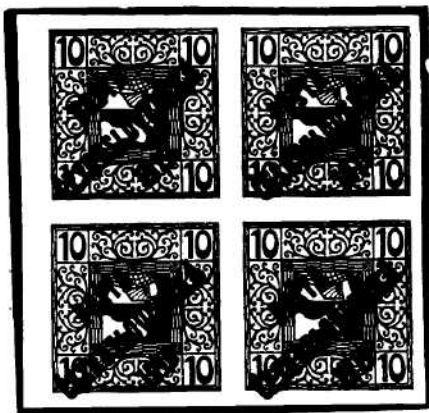


Fig. 9.



Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.



Figure 13.



Figure 12.



Figure 14.



Figure 15.



Figure 16.

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